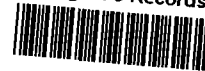


TO: BEVERLY DISHNER HQ U.S. EPA WASHINGTON D.C.

FROM: WILLIAM SIMES OSC REGION V U.S. EPA CHICAGO

HCC sp. 11
GARY Prod
GARY IN
EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



292894

HYDROCHLORIC ACID RELEASE

GARY PRODUCTS COMPANY 1040 MICHIGAN ST. GARY, INDIANA

POLREP # 1 APRIL 15, 1987

SITUATION: 0800 APRIL 14, 1987.

A. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

1. GARY PRODUCTS COMPANY OWNED BY WILLIAM KEAGLE AND GORDAN BABITT
2. MONTGOMERY TANK LINES RON ZEGA OPERATIONS MANAGER EDIBLE DIVISION
3. LAND OWNER UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME

B. MATERIALS SPILLED

1. HYDROCHLORIC ACID 30% SOLUTION APPROXIMATELY 30,000 GALLONS
2. GLYCERINE UNKNOWN AMOUNT BUT LESS THAN 1,000 GALLONS

C. THE FOLLOWING OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT ON SCENE:

GARY CHIEF OF POLICE
GARY CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTOR
GARY PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR
GARY MAYORS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
GARY POLICE HAZMAT
GARY POLICE MANAGEMENT SERVICES COMMANDER
GARY POLICE UNIFORM DIVISION COMMANDER
GARY FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT CHIEF
GARY SANITATION SUPT.
GARY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL
CALUMET TOWNSHIP CIVIL DEFENSE
COORDINATOR HAMMOND, INDIANA HAZMAT TEAM
COORDINATOR PORTER COUNTY HAZMAT TEAM
FIRE FIGHTERS FROM: GARY, HAMMOND, PORTER COUNTY & LAKE RIDGE
AMBULANCE & MEDIC UNITS: GARY, MERRILLVILLE, PRO-CARE
REPRESENTATIVES-GARY-HOBART WATER CO.
LAKE COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTOR
LAKE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
INDIANA STATE POLICE HAZMAT TEAM
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
INDIANA STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
SALVATION ARMY CANTEEN # 8

D. EVACUATION

1. TIME 0930-1630 APRIL 14, 1987
2. 2,000 PEOPLE WITHIN TWO SQUARE MILES OF SCENE
3. TWO GRAMMAR SCHOOLS
4. INITIATED BY GARY HAZMAT TEAM
5. EVACUATION THREE MILES FROM SITE TO GARY GENESIS

CONVENTION CENTER

E. HEALTH EFFECTS

1. ALL HOSPITALS NOTIFIED OF SYMPTOMS OF EXPOSURE, IRRITATION OF EYES/SKIN, RESPIRATORY DISTRESS, AND DIZZINESS
2. 64 PATIENTS ADMITTED TO MERCY HOSPITAL OF WHICH 8 PEOPLE WERE TREATED FOR CHEMICAL EXPOSURE AND RELEASED.
3. 5 PEOPLE WERE HOSPITALIZED OVER NIGHT OF WHICH 4 WERE LISTED IN AS GOOD CONDITION AND 1 IN FAIR CONDITION.

F. WEATHER CONDITIONS

1. TEMPERATURE IN 40S F
2. HEAVY RAINS
3. VARIABLE WINDS GUSTING TO 12 KNOTS

Stoltz Storage at 122nd and Torrence Avenue, Chicago, Illinois found a leak at their site last week and had to quickly locate other storage sites to house 1/2 million gallons of hydrochloric acid until they could make repairs. Mr. Keagle, part owner of Gary Products, spoke with manufacturer of the acid, Reagent Chemical of Port Arthur, TX. He was told that the the rubber-lined tanks would hold the acid. Consequently 21 truckloads were delivered to the site and unloaded into 2 large tanks (27,000 gallons each) and 2 smaller tanks (14,000 gallons each) on Friday 10 April and Saturday 11 April, 1987. On Monday 13 April, 1987, a small leak was found from one of the smaller tanks near the flange. Bolts tightened and leak stopped. By Monday evening, 2000 hours chemist on site noticed large tank leaking very badly. Mr. Keagle and chemist worked until 0430 Tuesday 14 April, but could not stop leak. Mr. Keagle only used a quarter face respirator. Acid said to be pouring out at this point. Mr. Keagle went home at this point and did not notify anyone. At 0620 Tuesday, an employee reported power failure and a leaking tank to Montgomery Tank Line manager Mr. Zega. Mr. Zega arrived on site and called Gary Sanitation District. Surveillance Supervisor for the Gary Sanitary District arrived on site and inspected leak. Civil Defense Director and Gary Fire Department both contacted.

CHRONOLOGY

- 0900 Call from Civil Defense Coordinator received by Hazmat Coordinator of Gary Police Department. Gary Police and Fire Departments arrived on scene.
- 0919 State Civil Defense Director notified.
- 0924 Hammond Air Pollution and Hazmat Coordinator notified.
- 0931 Porter County Hazmat notified to stand by.
- Radio dispatch for evacuation of residents. Gary-Hobart Water Company informed. State Police contacted to control traffic on I-65.
- Hammond Hazmat dispatched.
- Calumet Civil Defense responded.
- Lake County Civil Defense contacted for assistance.
- Fire Departments from Gary, Merrillville, Hammond, Porter County, and Lake Ridge responded, reported to Gary Police Hazmat Coordinator south of site.
- Communication Command Post established at 15th and Martin Luther King Dr.
- Public informed via ham radio hook-up to WLTH radio to calm public and prevent panic.
- State Police on site, asked to mobilize State Highway Department to bring sand. Large tank then plugged by Porter County Hazmat team.
- Reagent Chemical, manufacturer of product, notified about removal action.
- Gary Public Safety Officer contracting for chemical removal/clean up.
- Governor offered full cooperation.
- Lake County Civil Defense Director called Lake County Commissioner who issued a state of emergency for Lake County.
- 0945-1050 IDEM tried to call Gary Health Department - no answer.
- 1016 USEPA received call from IDEM.
- 1045 IDEM on scene.

Gary, Indiana Public Safety Officer on scene.

- 1100 Porter County Hazmat and Hammond Hazmat arrive on scene, set up decon line, bring in 4 truckloads of limestone, and began neutralizing spill.
- 1200 USEPA AND TAT on scene. Air monitoring performed, pH of water taken (0 pH). No readings monitored for HCl using Draeger colormetric tubes (0 - <1.ppm HCl). Water in sewer main leaving site being flushed, pH tested at 0.
- 1330 Tanker trailers begin removing acid from leaking storage tanks.
- 1500 Contractor begins clean-up of clarifier by neutralizing sludges and pumping liquids.
- 1630 Evacuation ended.
- 1800 All liquids removed from leaking vessels. Transfer of other tanks begun. Clarifier pumped out below discharge point, sewer line plugged by Gary Sanitary District.
- 1830 Begin demobilization of response personnel. Situation stabilized. OSC and TAT leave scene.

April 15, 1987

0800 OSC mails in income tax, the check is in the mail.

0830 OSC and TATs arrive on scene, begin air monitoring and testing of sewer lines. Water pH of discharge at 7 (neutral) pond adjacent to site tested, pH of 7. Colorimetric tubes for HCl and Cl sampled negative. Observed large water/vapor plume being emitted from standing acid and loading operation, no readings monitored with colorimetric tubes.

1300 All acid removed from tanks. Sludges neutralized in clarifier. Sumps located in tank area begin collecting and neutralizing spilled acid.

1400 OSC leaves scene.

PROBLEMS

- 1) Local health department was not notified, although attempts were made.
- 2) No notification was made by responsible party. This caused a 12 hour delay in response, allowing 30,000 gallons of acid to enter the environment.
- 3) Tank area was diked but had no integrity due to the permeability of the lining material under the tanks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) A letter of acknowledgement and appreciation of the fine job done by the local responders should be sent by the region or headquarters.
- 2) The effectiveness of the response is directly related to the county's preparedness planning for chemical emergencies. Regional training provided by EPA and TAT through the First

Responders course, Chemical Emergency Preparedness Program (CEPP), and spill simulations provided the local agencies with experience in dealing with these emergency situations. This situation clearly demonstrates the effectiveness and need to continue these programs.

3) Local agencies need to incorporate the local public health agencies into the decision making process. Have talked to local coordinators about this problem and they are making changes in their contingency plans. Meetings are being setup between these agencies.

cc: R. Bartelt
W. Reynolds
S. Powers
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Disposition: delete